

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A tape to be wound into a tire component which is made of unvulcanized rubber in which ~~at least one~~ a single cord is embedded along the length thereof,

~~the number of said at least one cord being at most three, and a total width of said at least one cord in the widthwise direction of the tape~~

the cord having a diameter being in a range of from 1/100 to 1/2 times the width of the tape, wherein

the thickness of the tape is larger in the cord embedded portion than the other portion so that the cord is completely embedded in the unvulcanized rubber, and

on each side of the cord embedded portion, a reduced thickness portion having a substantially constant thickness is formed, and the reduced thickness portion is wider than the cord embedded portion.

2. (Currently Amended) A tape according to claim 1, wherein said ~~at least one cord has a diameter D is~~ in a range of 0.3 to 1.5 mm,

said width of the tape is in a range of from 10 to 30 mm, and

the thickness of the tape is in range of from 0.5 to 1.5 mm when measured in the reduced thickness portion ~~ether than the cord position.~~

3. (Original) A tape according to claim 1, wherein the unvulcanized rubber has short fibers therein, and the short fibers are oriented in the longitudinal direction of the tape.

4. (Currently Amended) A tire component made of windings of a tape as claimed in any one of claims 1-3, and 6 and ~~6-18~~.

5. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire comprising a tire component made of windings of a tape as claimed in any one of claims 1-3, and 6 and ~~6-18~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A tape according to claim 1, wherein said reduced thickness ~~ether portion than the cord embedded~~ portion has a constant thickness not more than the cord diameter thickness.

7. - 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) A pneumatic tire according to
claim 5, wherein

 said tire component is a sidewall rubber.